

Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex

Site Response Section



Update

July 2012

Rail Yard News

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is issuing this update to keep you informed about the investigation and cleanup of contamination associated with the Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex (Facility). DEQ used final US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) toxicity information for tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) to develop proposed final indoor air cleanup levels for residential and industrial rail yard buildings at the Facility. DEQ is soliciting public comment on these revised proposed cleanup levels (www.deq.mt.gov/pubcom.asp) and the comment period ends **August 27, 2012**.

In addition, DEQ is requiring BNSF to clean up asbestos found throughout the rail yard and soils contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead. DEQ is also soliciting public comment on

these cleanup plans with the comment periods also ending on **August 27, 2012**.

With DEQ oversight, BNSF will be conducting additional investigation into the extent of this PCE in the bedrock and that investigation will be conducted this summer. Finally, BNSF has continued to clean up petroleum products from the groundwater and is in the process of expanding the system to address petroleum contamination located south of Park Street from the rail yard and west of the current product recovery system on the rail yard.

Public Meeting
August 9, 2012 7:00 pm
Livingston Community Room

Proposed Final Indoor Air Cleanup Levels

DEQ required BNSF to sample indoor air and soil vapor in over 200 homes and businesses between 2005 and 2012. The purpose of the sampling was to determine whether vapors from contaminated soil and groundwater might be entering buildings in and around the railyard at levels that might pose a health risk. More general information about vapor intrusion is available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/FrequentlyAskedQuestions.mcp#2a>.

DEQ had been comparing the indoor air samples to previous cleanup levels that DEQ had developed for the Facility. In September 2011 and February 2012, EPA released its final assessment of the toxicity of TCE and PCE, respectively. The federal court order for the Facility requires DEQ to update the indoor air cleanup levels based on EPA's new information.

DEQ revised the interim PCE and TCE indoor air cleanup levels for the Facility based upon the final EPA assessments. DEQ is currently soliciting public comment on the June 2012 *Final Draft Task I Risk Assessment Amendment Number 2*, which contains the new cleanup levels, located at <http://deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/BNLivingston.mcp#x> and the comment period will end at midnight on **August 27, 2012**.

DEQ will consider and respond to any written comments received and finalize the cleanup levels. DEQ will then determine whether any buildings require further action for indoor air, including more sampling or the installation of protection systems. DEQ will provide additional information regarding the cleanup levels during the **August 9, 2012** public meeting.

Surface Soil Cleanup

The DEQ 2001 Record of Decision for the Facility required that BNSF collect samples from the surface soil on the rail yard to determine whether there is any petroleum, PAHs, or lead contamination that requires cleanup. BNSF completed the sampling DEQ required in December 2011. The data indicate that removal of some contaminated locations (“hot spots”) is required to be protective of rail yard workers and some nearby residences. These soils will be removed from the Facility and disposed of at a DEQ-approved landfill.

While conducting this sampling, DEQ discovered asbestos-containing building materials in areas of the rail yard not previously investigated for asbestos. DEQ required BNSF to complete an investigation to determine how much asbestos contamination is present and to clean up any

asbestos identified. BNSF completed the investigation in 2011 and will clean up the asbestos and dispose of them at a DEQ-approved landfill.

DEQ is soliciting public comment on the draft remedial action plans for both the soil and the asbestos cleanups. These plans are the July 2012 *Revised Task J Surface Soil Supplemental Investigation Report (Revision No. 2)* and the April 2012 *Task M Remedial Action Plan for Asbestos-Containing Materials (Revision No. 2)* located at <http://deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/BNLivingston.mcpx> and the comment period on these documents will also end at midnight on **August 27, 2012**. DEQ will consider and respond to any comments received and once the remedial action plans are approved, BNSF will conduct the cleanup activities this fall.

Official Comments on the

- *Final Draft Task I Risk Assessment Amendment Number 2*
- *Revised Task J Surface Soil Supplemental Investigation Report (Revision No. 2)*; and the
- *Task M Remedial Action Plan for Asbestos-Containing Materials (Revision No. 2)*

need to be submitted to DEQ in writing and may be delivered to a DEQ representative during the

Public Meeting August 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Livingston Community Room

or comments may be submitted to **Project Manager Aimee Reynolds, at areynolds@mt.gov or PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901** no later than midnight on **August 27, 2012**.

Bedrock Aquifer Investigation

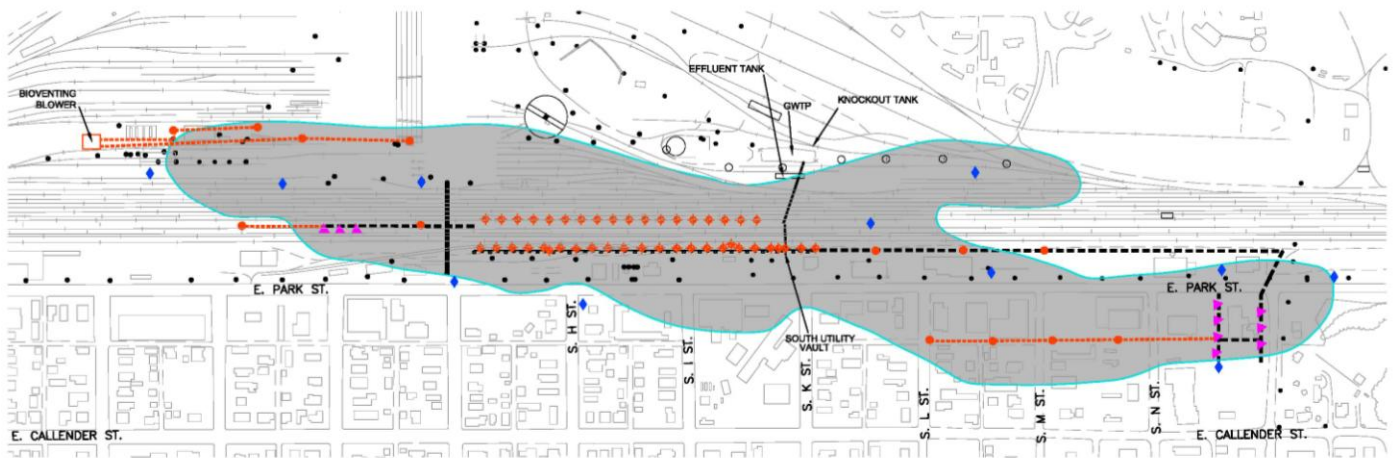
DEQ required BNSF to install several wells to investigate whether VOCs are present in the deep rock aquifer at the Facility. BNSF installed these wells into the deeper groundwater and began sampling them in 2011. The data show that there is an area on the rail yard with very high concentrations

of PCE in the top part of the bedrock aquifer. Therefore, DEQ is requiring BNSF to conduct additional investigation to define the nature and extent of this contamination so that cleanup options can be evaluated. BNSF will install additional deep wells in and around the rail yard this summer.

Petroleum Product Recovery

In 2007 and 2008, DEQ required BNSF to construct a petroleum product recovery system. The first phase of the system consists of 40 wells located in the middle of the railroad tracks and south of the main line where most of the petroleum contamination is found. It also includes a treatment plant located on the rail yard that separates the petroleum from the groundwater and then treats the remaining water before it is discharged to the local sewer system. The petroleum is being reused as industrial fuel.

The system also includes seven additional bioventing wells located north of the rail lines. Pumping air into and out of the ground promotes biologic activity that breaks down the petroleum in the soils. To date, DEQ estimates that the system has removed over **30,000 gallons** of petroleum product from the ground. This year, DEQ is requiring BNSF to install additional product recovery and bioventing wells south of Park Street and west of the current system to remediate the petroleum contamination in all the areas where the petroleum is currently located in the groundwater.



What's Next?

DEQ will finalize the new cleanup levels for VOCs in indoor air and then determine whether any buildings will require further action. DEQ will finalize the remedial action plans for soil and asbestos cleanup and require BNSF to conduct the cleanups. DEQ will oversee the bedrock aquifer

investigation and the expansion of the petroleum product recovery system. DEQ intends to continue to focus on the ongoing cleanup at the same time as the investigations so that the cleanup moves forward as quickly as possible.

Information Located At

Livingston-Park County Library
228 West Callender
Livingston, MT 59047
Telephone (406) 222-0862

<http://www.deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/BNLivingston.mcp>

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Remediation Division
1100 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Telephone (406) 841-5000

Questions? Concerns?

**Contact Aimee Reynolds, DEQ Project
Manager:**

Phone (406) 841-5065 (direct)
(800) 246-8198 (Superfund hotline)
Fax (406) 841-5050
Email: areynolds@mt.gov

Or come to the public meeting:

7 p.m., Thursday, August 9, 2012
Community Room of the City/County
Building, 414 East Callender St., Livingston

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative accessible format of this information, or who require some other reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should please contact DEQ at least 3 days before the meeting.

